



#### SECOND SUNDAYS **PIZZA PARTY**

**Boiler Room** 2210 N. California Ave. 773-276-5625

Pump up the volume on your Sunday as the Logan Square spot teams up with Half Acre Beer Company to offer \$5.16-ounce cans of Daisy Cutter and an 8 p.m. tapping of a bartender's choice keg. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Sunday.

#### **Old Crow Smokehouse**

3506 N. Clark St. 312-850-8168

Follow your sweet tooth to Wrigleyville for a Valentine candy-themed bar crawl where admission includes access to 10 neighborhood bars with drink specials including \$3 Amstel Lights and Heinekens and \$5 RumChata shots. candy giveaways—and a backpack in which to store them-plus a winter hat, commemorative T-shirt and prizes for themed crawl-wear. 12-6 p.m. Saturday. \$30. Tickets: candycrushcrawl.com

#### **HEY LOGAN, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR ELEMENT Logan Theatre**

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-342-5555

Don a bathrobe and join Pipeworks Brewing Company for "The Big Lebowski," which you can accompany with Hey Careful Man, There's A Beverage Here (\$7 per pour)—a white Russian imperial milk stout. 10:30 p.m. Friday. \$7. Tickets: thelogantheatre.com



#### **OLYMPWICKS** Sedawick's

1935 N. Sedgwick St. 312-337-7900

Go for the gold with Olympics-themed bar games for groups of four to eight such as Short Track Beer Pong, Bubble Hockey and Shot Luge Curling. Some games require food or alcohol purchase. 3 p.m. Sunday. No cover.

#### **BITTER BETTY BAZAAR AFTER DARK**

**Innertown Pub** 1935 W. Thomas St. 773-235-9795

More than 20 vendors offer Valentine's Day gifts and cards, foods and spices, home goods and fashions and more. 7 p.m.midnight. Saturday. No cover.



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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Voting continues through 5 p.m. Monday in the first round of RedEye's Best Bartender contest: redeyechicago.com/bartender















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February 11-16, 2014







# Jared Chase





# ANARCHISTS ORIDIOTS?

#### THAT'S THE BIG QUESTION AS NATO 3 TRIAL GOES TO JURY

#### **Chicago Tribune**

The issue before a jury has rarely been so divergent: Did three out-of-state men who came to Chicago in the days before the NATO summit in 2012 want to violently bring about an anarchist revolution or were they just loud-mouthed simpletons who liked to brag?

It's the question both sides agreed that jurors must settle as they began deliberating Thursday night after sitting through nearly three weeks of testimony and about five hours of closing arguments on Thursday in the first terrorism case brought by Cook County prosecutors.

Both the prosecutors and the attorneys for the so-called NATO 3 told jurors that their verdict would be a reflection on American society and that they would help define the line between terrorism and violence.

"When your hatred boils over into plots of violence, you've crossed the line—the line that protects us all," said Assistant State's Attorney John Blakey, who got the last word with jurors.

"Is this what the war on terror has come to?" attorney Molly Armour, who represents Brent Betterly, asked jurors.

Betterly, 25, Jared Chase, 29, and Brian Church, 22, were arrested in May 2012 after allegedly assembling four Molotov cock-

tails using empty beer bottles, gasoline and an undercover Chicago police officer's cutup bandanna.

Recordings secretly made by two undercover cops who joined the group while posing as activists buttress the prosecution case. But throughout the trial, attorneys for the three Florida men contended those recordings show their clients had no intention of acting on their boasts.

The defense maintained that prosecutors had badly overreached by bringing terrorism charges created in the aftermath of the devastating Sept. II attacks that had never been used before in Cook County. But prosecutors held steadfast that they had acted against a real danger.

Throughout the trial, prosecutors repeatedly played up the most damaging statements by the defendants caught on the undercover recordings—most prominently Church's question to an undercover officer as the Molotovs were being built—"Ready to see a police officer on fire?" At another point, he also said that "the city doesn't know what it's in for and after NATO it will never be the same."

In closing rebuttal to jurors after the defense lawyers had spoken, Blakey gave each defendant a nickname—calling Church "Mr. Cop-on-Fire," Chase "Captain Napalm" and Betterly "Professor Molotov"—

and accused them of trying to conceal their violent plans "behind the legacy of nonviolent protest."

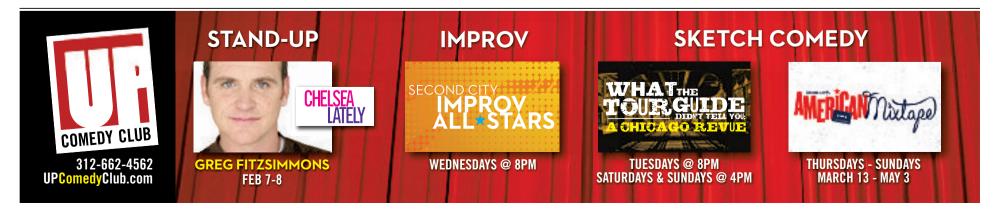
"Martin Luther King? Gandhi? Mother Teresa? I don't see them in court," he told jurors.

Saying that "the First Amendment was alive and well," Blakey said the three crossed the line to terrorism when they went from discussing their unhappiness with society to plotting violence. He repeatedly told jurors that the three weren't just joking.

But defense attorneys said the undercover recordings showed that the three were too stoned, drunk or just plain stupid to be terrorists and were goaded into building the Molotov cocktails by inexperienced officers desperate to find a "bogeyman" after months of searching for criminal activity among activist groups.

Church's attorney, Michael Deutsch, said the decision by prosecutors to charge the case as a terrorism "denigrated" both the "real" terrorist-fighting work done by authorities and also "real victims" of terrorist attacks.

"To me it trivializes terrorism—the most serious type of case," Deutsch said. "You think of al-Qaida or the people who blew up Oklahoma City. This is not a case of terrorism."



# Hey, who are you calling a 'gamer'?



"So, are you like ... a gamer?\*

I hear this question on nearly every first date, and it makes me grimace every time. I usually admit that I am, but in an apologetic, slightly embarrassed, awshucks-I-know-it'skind-of-ridiculous-butwhat-are-you-gonna-do kind of way.

It's not that I'm embarrassed about enjoying pixelated entertainment, it's just that the word "gamer" is such a stupid and outdated term that I wish we as a society could burn it and bury it so deep in a

Here's a thought experiment: Close your eyes and search for an image in your mind that fits the term "gamer." Chances are you'll imagine a 25-year-old burnout whose modest ambitions have all but drowned in a melange of bong water, porn and PlayStation 4. Or a socially awkward, neckbearded manchild who weeps into his Mountain Dew every time he hears the first three notes from the "Zelda"

desert that even Lara Croft couldn't dig it up.

Yep, at some point in the history of our cultural lexicon, "gamer" became lazy shorthand for "immature slacker" in nearly the same way "rocket scientist" is synonymous with brainy complexity or "politician" with sycophantic smarminess.

It's not really our fault-it's a mass-media stereotype left over from a time when games were much more of a niche pursuit enjoyed by kids and social outcast types. But games and the people who play them have grown up over the past decade or so. According to recent statistics from the Entertainment Software Association, the average player is a 30-year-old who is almost as likely to be a woman as a dude (55 percent male to 45 percent female).

Yes, there still are plenty of mindless firstperson shooters and ultra-nerdy role-playing games involving talking dragons or spandexclad superheroes, but there also are a growing number of interactive fictions that tell stories



rivaling anything in Hollywood and serious games focused on issues such as immigration or sweatshop labor.

The most popular type of online game isn't anything resembling "World of Warcraft," it's a puzzle, card or trivia game-the kind of time-waster you probably tinker with on your smartphone while riding the CTA.

That's the thing. The term gamer implies a small minority or someone who has elite skills or training-think boxer, chef or firefighter. Fifty-eight percent of all Americans play video games of some kind-whether it's "Call of Duty" on an Xbox One or "Candy Crush" on an iPhone.

Now that these games are ubiquitous, to call the majority of us "gamers" just because we play makes about as much sense as labeling someone who watches movies a "filmer" or those who consume cake "cakers." (Granted, the term "foodie" is nearly as obnoxious, but that's a different story.) Almost everyone carries and constantly looks at a tiny computer in his or her pocket, but that doesn't make anyone a "phoner."

Come on, folks. Let's all make a pact and stop using the word "gamer." Maybe then I'll snag a second date.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

#### @JAKESTATEFARM

We want to highlight one Twitter user in particular on Fridays for their provided entertainment during the workday. This week's featured Twitter machine: @JakeStateFarm.

If you can quote, word for word, the State Farm Insurance commercial where a husband is talking to Jake, an insurance agent, late into the night when his suspicious wife stomps into the living room demanding answers-"What are you wearing, Jake from State Farm?"-then, congratulations, you're as much of a TV junkie as I am. And maybe you'll be as entertained by the official, verified Twitter account for this Jake from State Farm, who is, in fact, wearing khakis.

By the way: 'Try searching 'Jake from State Farm' on Twitter, and you'll see that this commercial is constantly playing somewhere and someone is almost always tweeting about it. So, yes, this account is genius, and you should be following it.

Suggest someone you think we should feature by sending a tweet to MJESSICAGALLIART, JESSICA GALLIART, REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA LADY

## "Uhhh...#khakis. #INailedThatLine"



"I happily reside in Bloomington, IL. @DadMan-Running and I do proudly own @Dockers!" (Local tiel)

"For those asking .. my #Saturday night consists of sweats, a t-shirt, chips and gueso. I'm sure I'll be wearing the gueso soon too..."

"Good night good people of Twitter! I need my rest prior to my day filled with eating and football and eating." (Jake clearly likes to party)

"#JakesRiddlesAnswer: What do you call an old snowman? Water. #YoureWelcome" (Jokes-Jake's got 'em.)

\*No, @MahomieLegend, @AustinMahone does not follow @JakeStateFarm."

#### CORRECTION

The movie "Divergent" opens March 21. An item listed on Wednesday's Red Hot page listed an incorrect date.















# WAR OF WHEELS

# RIDESHARE AND TAXISERVICES BUTT HEADS AS CITY MULLS ITS OPTIONS

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

You're running late and need a ride to make it to dinner with friends.

Do you hail a cab on the corner or use an app to request a pickup from a growing number of rideshare services such as uberX, Lyft or Sidecar?

That choice is creating friction between the taxi industry and rideshare companies. The competition it has sparked has even led to a legal battle in Chicago federal court, with the most recent lawsuit filed Thursday. The taxi industry—with more than 11,700 licensed drivers in the city—says that rideshare companies, which rely on drivers in private vehicles, unfairly compete with taxis because they don't play by the same city rules covering rates, licenses and fees. Rideshare companies contend they are not operating as transportation companies, but rather as technology companies with apps to connect riders to drivers—much like a travel booking platform.

As city officials look at how other cities have handled the conflict, passengers are left with more options than ever before—which can be unpredictable, particularly when it comes to prices.

Last month, Uber lowered uberX fares by



Attorney Michael Shakman announces a lawsuit against the city on Thursday.

NANCYSTONE/TRIBUNE

15 percent, and Sidecar changed its policy to allow drivers to set their own prices, undercutting taxi drivers—all after rider backlash from a spike in prices on New Year's Eve and during bad weather when demand was high.

Meanwhile, cab drivers are allowed to charge only metered rates set by the city, and their cars are required to display city-issued medallions that can cost more than \$300,000 to own. Additionally, all drivers are required to hold a chauffeur's license, serve the entire city and people with disabilities. Some drivers

lease their cars and work with cab affiliations for dispatch services. Rideshare drivers do not have such regulations.

"All we keep saying is we just want to play by the same rules as these other companies that have emerged in the market and we're not getting the same treatment. So something needs to change," said Erica Rapoport, public relations director for Flash Cab.

The lawsuit filed Thursday by cab companies and drivers is against the city for failing to enforce its rules for taxi services and allowing rideshare companies to operate.

"Unfortunately the Emanuel administration has tolerated an unlawful taxi caste system created by Uber, Lyft and Sidecar and now the administration proposes to ratify that caste system by ordinance. It is an exclusionary, elitist taxi system operated side by side with the lawful, highly regulated taxi system our clients and their customers have en-

gaged in with the city's consent and requirements for many years," said attorney Michael Shakman, who filed the suit.

The lawsuit came one day after Mayor Emanuel introduced regulations for the rideshare industry, including licensing companies annually as "transportation network providers" with a fee of \$25,000, requiring vehicles to pass a 21-point inspection, and mandating companies have \$1 million in commercial general liability insurance and commercial auto liability insurance.

Regarding the lawsuit, Andrew Macdonald, regional general manager for Uber Midwest, said in a statement, "While they spend time in court, we'll be working with Mayor Emanuel to design a forward-looking regulatory regime that creates economic opportunity, prioritizes safety and ensures access to the best, cheapest rides ever available in the city."

The proposal would require drivers to com-

#### DRIVER SQUAD

Thinking about driving for a rideshare company to make some extra dough? A Lyft driver dishes about what the job entails. L.v.

**Driver:** Danielle Stone, 32, of Logan Square, working since May

What she drives: 2008 Saturn Vue

**Why do it:** She needed income while she figures out her next career move after getting laid off from her finance job. When she works 40 to 45 hours a week, she said she makes \$1,000.

What she likes about it: "I get to dress

down. I'm constantly on the go, meeting new people. ... It's really fun, super flexible and money is good. ... No complaints. I almost don't want to go back to corporate because I have so much fun and I'm making

**The drawback is:** "It's taken a toll on my body because I drive a lot—an occupational hazard." She gets weekly massages to ease the pain.



plete a training program and pass drug tests and background checks, limit how rideshare drivers can charge rates either based on distance or time or flat fee, and prohibit the drivers from dropping off or picking up passengers at the city's airports and McCormick Place. The city, which collects revenue in the licensing of cabs, also would charge rideshare companies the ground transportation tax.

"Rideshare companies are using technology to provide innovative new transit options to residents but are operating in a regulatory vacuum," Emanuel said. "This ordinance includes common sense rules of the road that will protect consumers, keep riders safe and allow these companies to continue to operate."

Rideshare companies set driver and vehicle requirements and say they check criminal backgrounds and driving histories. Although the companies provide commercial liability insurance, drivers are required to have personal car insurance. There is uncertainty over whether the driver and car are covered while giving rides to paying customers.

Such complaints by the cab industry are common in other cities, Macdonald said. "The cab industry is an industry that is ripe for innovation. I think what you see is a bit of natural tension with regards to how new technology makes things friendly for consumers," he said.

Chicago has been innovation-friendly, Macdonald said, and seems to be open to the apps.

Ridesharing companies, which get a cut of the drivers' payments, say they provide a cheap, reliable option and personal experience for riders. They give riders the option to rate the ride and the convenience of electronically paying for the ride.

Macdonald said Uber believes in safety regulations but is concerned about restricting fares and places where drivers take passengers. Lyft saw the proposed ordinance as a starting point and looks forward to working with the city.

Cab affiliates like Flash worry that rideshare companies will lure taxicab drivers away because rideshare drivers face minimal costs to operate.

If fewer drivers are affiliated with cab companies, there will be fewer taxi drivers answering orders for cabs from the dispatch computer, making it more difficult to serve customers at the standard meter prices who request cabs, they say.

And customers are exacerbating the problem, according to Rapoport: "These two times as much, three times as much the meter rate prices [that] customers are paying on holidays, busy days and snow days, they're essentially being self-inflated because they're giving rideshare services the business."

LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM | @LVIVANCO



A Lyft car **GETTY IMAGES** 

#### RATE MY RIDE

How do fares stack up to Chicago taxis and major rideshare companies? **L.v.** 



#### **LICENSED CABS IN CHICAGO**

Base fare: \$3.25 Per mile: \$1.80 Every 36 seconds of time elapsed: 20 cents

First additional passenger: **\$1** Each additional passenger after first passenger: **50 cents** 



#### **JBERX**

Started in Chicago in summer 2013 Base fare: **\$2.40** Per mile: **\$1** Per minute: **24 cents** Minimum: **\$3.20** Cancellation fee: **\$5** 



#### **LYFT**

Started in Chicago in May 2013
Base fare: \$2
Per mile: \$1.25
Per minute: 30 cents
Minimum: \$4
Cancellation fee: \$5
\*Trust & safety fee to support driving record and background checks: \$1



#### **SIDECAR**

Started in Chicago in February 2013

» Drivers set their own prices and riders can choose their drivers based on price and estimated arrival times.

» There is no cost breakdown provided on a rider receipt.
Cancellation fee: \$5

# Chicago # 134 6











Dysheka Bibbs and Khadisjah Lane display remembrances Thursday of their brother, Markeyo Carr, 17, who was shot and killed Wednesday. CHRISWALKER/TRIBUNE

# 'That is my hero'

#### Teen praises mother's strength before his slaying

#### Chicago Tribune

The day before Markeyo Carrwas fatally shot, he completed a short paper for a school assignment about heroes. The Amundsen High School junior wrote about his mother.

"She is my backbone," he wrote, according to his sister Dysheka Bibbs, who read from the paper outside the family's Rogers Park home. "She is a great inspiration to me because she encourages me to stay in school, to focus on my books and to stay off the streets. That is my hero."

The short paper is now one of his family's last mementos of Carr, 17, who was killed Wednesday in the parking lot of a McDonald's restaurant in Rogers Park.

Police said Carr and three others were outside the restaurant at Pratt Boulevard and Clark Street about 3:30 p.m. when a gunman opened fire. Just before that, at least one per-

son from Carr's group had been involved in an argument, but police weren't certain what role,

Markeyo Carr

if any, that played in the shooting.

Carr was shot in the head and collapsed in a driveway next to a strip mall. The other three were also shot but survived. A girl, about

15, was shot several times, authorities said. An 18-year-old man was shot in the lower back, and another 18-year-old man was shot in the arm, authorities said.

Rogers Park is considered one of Chicago's most culturally diverse neighborhoods and, statistically, one of the safest. It is home to Loyola University Chicago, and draws a vibrant crowd to its businesses.

But pockets of the Far North Side community are plagued by gang problems and crime.

The area involved in Wednesday's shoot-

ing has been the scene of an ongoing feud between factions of the Gangster Disciples that has sparked occasional shootings, police sources said.

City data show that there have been at least 11 other shootings within four blocks of where Carr was killed since June 2011. On Jan. 26, a 15-year-old boy was shot in the shoulder, not far from the site of Wednesday's shooting.

Police had no suspects in custody in Carr's slaying as of Thursday, police said. One of the three survivors had gang affiliations, police

Carr's family said he had been on Amundsen's swim team since ninth grade and he wanted to join the Marines.

Khadisjah Lane, 20, remembered her younger brother's sense of humor.

"To me, even though he was a middle child, he always seemed like a big brother to me," Lane said. "I never had a big brother, but to me he was like a big brother. We'd ... argue, but I loved him to death."

#### **Cubs avoid** conflict with **Pride Parade**

#### By Leonor Vivanco

REDEYE

We all know how crowded Lakeyiew gets the day of the Gay Pride Parade.

Now imagine the traffic if there were a Cubs home game on the same day.

Well, crisis averted.

The Cubs announced Thursday that their home game against Washington scheduled for June 29-the same day as the parade-has been rescheduled.

The team will now play a daynight doubleheader against the Nationals on June 28.

"This change was made at the request of Ald. Tom Tunney and in consideration of neighborhood traffic and congestion in connection with the annual Pride Parade," the Cubs said.

LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COMT@LVIVANCO

#### **EXPRESS LINES**

- » Two men have been charged in the January slaving of a 15-year-old boy in Little Village who was shot after asking "What?" when one of them shouted a gang slogan, police and prosecutors said Thursday.
- » In a review of the first month of concealed carry applications, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart objected to granting firearms permits to 240 people because of criminal histories that include domestic violence and gun crimes.
- The Mulliganeers, a local nonprofit group that helps children in need, will be the grand marshal of next month's South Side Irish Parade, organizers announced Thursday, TRIBUNE

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#### chicago

# HOMICIDE BY THE NUMBERS

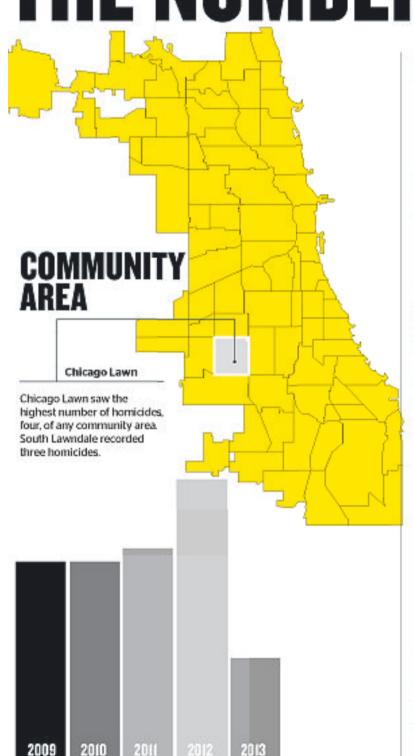


#### By Tracy Swartz | REDEVE

Chicago Lawn, a community area that saw double-digit improvement in its homicide total last year, logged four killings in January, according to a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data.

The Southwest Side community area recorded nine homicides last year, down from 22 homicides in 2012, RedEye data shows. Much of this violence has been concentrated north and east of Marquette Park.

Citywide, January ended last week with 24 homicides, down from 44 killings in 2013, RedEye determined. This decline follows two straight Januarys with 40-plus homicides. TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM | @TRACYSWARTZ





■ MALE: 23 FEMALE: 1 The only female homicide victim was an 18-year-old woman stabbed to death Jan. 6 in the 2900 block of West 63rd Street in Chicago Lawn.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# 41.6%

# RACE

■ BLACK: 14 ■ WHITE OR HISPANIC: 10 White and Hispanic victims last year composed about 20 percent of Chicago homicide victims. In January, they were about 42 percent of all victims.

# AVERAGE AGE The youngest victim in January was

The youngest victim in January was a 15-year-old boy who was shot to death Jan. 26 in the 4100 block of

West 30th Street in South Lawndale. The oldest victim was a 56-year-old man shot to death Jan. 8 in the 1700 block of East 72nd Street in South Shore.

## MONTH OF INCIDENT 12014





FEB.

The gunshot victims ranged in age from 15 to 56 years old.

11.0

AUG

in age from 15 to 56 years old.

Gunshot: 21

IUN

Stabbing: 2

NOV

OCT.

DEC

Assault: 1



10







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#### Pakistan, Taliban begin peace talks

A long-awaited first round of peace talks between Pakistani Taliban insurgents and the government began in Islamabad on Thursday after persistent delays and growing doubt over the chance of their success.



#### 300-year-old stolen violin recovered

With the recovery of a stolen 300-year-old Stradivarius violin, a Milwaukee musician will once again be able to make sweet music. The instrument, known as the Lipinski Strad after a famed Polish virtuoso who owned it in the 19th century, was stolen Jan. 27 during the armed robbery of the concertmaster for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

#### Ultra-Orthodox Jews protest military draft

Thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jewish men protested across Israel on Thursday against the government's plans to draft them into the military. The demonstrators shut down major traffic arteries, set fire to garbage dumpsters and even a police vehicle as police attempted to contain them with water cannons and mounted troops.

#### Doctor accused of torturing stepdaughter

A well-known Delaware doctor would punish his stepdaughter by making her stand for hours with her arms outstretched, depriving her of food and forbidding her from using the bathroom, the girl's mother told a court Thursday.

#### The most profitable insider trade in history?

Mathew Martoma, a former portfolio manager at billionaire Steven A. Cohen's SAC Capital Advisors hedge fund, was found guilty Thursday of engaging in what prosecutors called the most lucrative insider trading scheme in U.S. history.

# **GOP blocks jobless bill**

WASHINGTON Senate Republicans on Thursday blocked a new bid by Democrats to restore long-term unemployment benefits for 1.7 million Americans while also making millionaires ineligible for such emergency assistance.

On a mostly party-line vote of 58-40, Democrats fell short of the needed 60 to clear a Republican procedural hurdle against a proposed three-month, retroactive extension of the relief that includes a way to fully cover the \$6.4 billion cost.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, expecting defeat, said before the vote that he would keep trying, "We are not going to give

up on the unemployed," he vowed.

With the support of four Republicans, backers of the bill initially got 59 votes, one shy of the needed 60. Reid then switched his vote from yes to no, which under Senate rules allows him to bring the measure up again.

At the White House, press secretary Jay Carpey said, "We cannot allow one vote to stand in the way of supporting these Americans as they struggle to find work."

"Both sides of the aisle have worked together to prevent this kind of hardship in the past, and neglecting to do so now is unacceptable," Carney said.

Amid partisan gridlock, Democrats have

accused Republicans of being insensitive to the jobless, and Republicans have accused Democrats of trying to jam through the legislation without amendments.

Jobless benefits for workers unemployed for six months or more expired Dec. 28, and Democrats have taken the lead in trying to restore them. But Republicans argue that what the unemployed really need are jobs, and that the jobless program needs to be reformed.

Democrats contend that benefits should be restored while Congress examines how to create new employment opportunities and reform the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program.



An ultra-Orthodox Jewish protester pulls the tail of a horse used by policemen to disperse protesters during a demonstration in Jerusalem on Thursday. REUTERS

#### Russia accuses U.S. of arming 'rebels'

KIEV A senior Kremlin aide accused the United States on Thursday of arming Ukrainian\*rebels" and, urging the Kiev government to put down what he called an attempted coup, warned that Russia could intervene to maintain the security of its ex-Soviet neighbor.

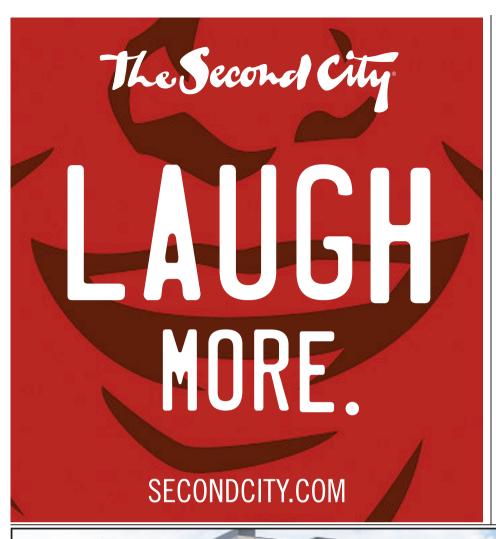
Sergei Glazyev, an adviser to President Vladimir Putin with responsibility for relations with Ukraine, told a newspaper that U.S. "interference" breached the 1994 treaty under which Washington and Moscow jointly guaranteed Ukraine's security and sovereignty after Kiev gave up its Soviet-era nuclear arsenal.

His comments come on the eve of an expected meeting between Putin and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich at the opening of the Sochi Winter Olympics.

Asked whether Russia might "actively intervene" if the country's crisis deepened, Glazyev recalled the Budapest Memorandum of 1994: "Under the document, Russia and the USA are guarantors of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and ... are obliged to intervene when conflict situations of this nature arise." He did not specify what action Russia might take.

THE DIGIT

That's how much retail sales growth will rise in 2014, the National Retail Federation predicted Thursday.









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2014 WINTER GAMES . SOCHI, RUSSIA . **DAY 2 OF 18** 

#### You might not want to be the president of Russia right now

#### Tribune news services

In the next two weeks, you probably won't be able to go five minutes without hearing, reading or seeing Russian President Vladimir Putin's name. Depending on your perspective, he either had a good couple of days or two he'd rather forget Wednesday and Thursday.







second-and then we made eye contact, and he comes around and shakes my hand." Whitmore told the Tribune. "He's about to walk away and I'm like, 'Hey, you're doing a good job.' Then he smiled, and a couple of reporters

laughed. And then that was it."

engrossed in his video game.

"I didn't even look up," Garcia said, laughing. "I was in first place in the video game."

Also Wednesday, Team USA goaltender Molly Schaus was minding her own business in the athletes'

man "dressed in world leader attire."

OPENING

CEREMONIES 6:30 p.m. NBC

Which makes sense, because it was Putin who had entered.

"I was in the dining hall when he came in so I got to see him," Schaus said. "You're sitting in there and a throng of media comes in. It was

#### GOOD: Rubbing elbows

Long-track speedskater Mitch Whitmore has yet to race in his first Olympics, but he's already experienced an unforgettable moment.

It involved none other than Vladimir Putin.

Whitmore, 24, was in the athletes' activity center Wednesday watching U.S. teammate Jonathan Garcia play a video game when Russia's president entered the room amid a sea of

\*Putin walks in, and I'm like, whoa-

just laughing, stared at him for a He was tapping Garcia, who was village in Sochi when she spotted a pretty cool just to see." SUPER BOWL XLVIII SOCHI OPENING CEREMONIES SOCHI CLOSING CEREMONIES

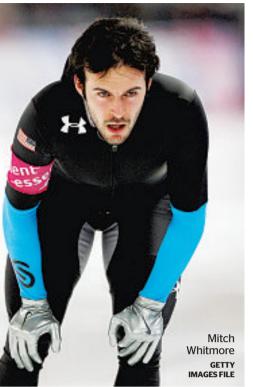
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SNOWBOARDING\* \$143

THE STARTING LINE > Blackhawks at Phoenix, 8 p.m. CSN



» Hawks to play preseason game Sept. 28 in Saskatchewan » Wolves at lowa, 7 p.m. WCIU2





Heading to Sochi? You're gonna need a

flight is what you'll probably pay. Once

you're there, prices vary by event, but here's what you could expect to plunk

down for some of the marquee events,

ets for comparison. JAYST. PIERRE, REDEYE

#### **BAD: Controversy won't quit**

Russian snowboarder Alexev Sobolev crashed near the end of his second run at Thursday morning's slopestyle qualification round at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park.

However, not all the questions from reporters afterward were about his performance.

After his run, he held up his board in the finish area, and on it was a design of a knife-wielding woman wearing a ski mask, which is what the members of feminist punk rock band Pussy Riot wear when they perform.

Some Russian reporters asked if this was a gesture of support for the controversial group.

In December, two Pussy Riot members were released from prison after they had been incarcerated for denouncing Vladimir Putin.

An Associated Press journalist tweeted that she spoke to Sobolev after the snowboarding event and that he would not confirm if he supported Pussy Riot.

Russian news agency R-Sport earlier asked Sobolev if the design was an homage to the band.

"Anything is possible," Sobolev said, also telling the reporter that he was not the designer of the board.

Meanwhile, the debate over Russia's anti-gay law continued, with American and Russian officials facing questions on the issue.

The discussion followed news that three sponsors of the U.S. Olympic Committee—AT&T, DeVry University and Chobani-had taken public stands against the law.

A USOC official insisted the controversy had not hurt the organization.

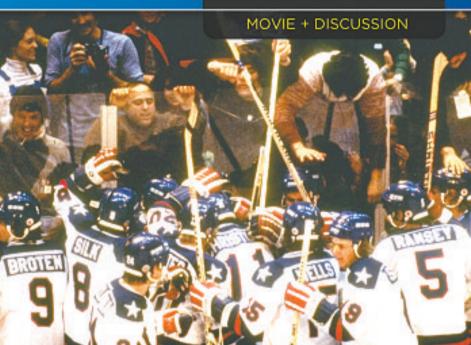
"We have not lost any revenue," USOC chief marketing officer Lisa Baird said. "Companies are drawn to Team USA because it is an incredibly diverse team."

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak repeated two common government themes. One holds that, despite the law criminalizing discussion of gay rights in the presence of minors, his country does not discriminate. The other focuses on protecting children.

"Every adult has their own right to understand their sexual activity," he said. "Please do not touch the kids, that is the only thing."







Special screening of the movie

# Miracle'

hosted by the Tribune's Steve Rosenbloom and Mark Caro

## Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m.

515 Music Box Theater, 3733 N. Southport Ave., Chicago

Join the Chicago Tribune's Steve Rosenbloom and Mark Caro and watch "Miracle," the 2004 movie starring Kurt Russell that tells the story of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team that upset the powerful Soviets and captured the gold medal. Following the movie, Rosenbloom and Caro will be joined on stage by 1980 Olympic team member and former Blackhawk Jack O'Callahan. No hockey fan will want to miss this experience.



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#### fiveonfive

#### SO-CHI

Is it too late for Chicago to get the Winter Olympics? It couldn't be worse than Sochi. And that 46-man luge sounds .. interesting.



Phil
Thompson
Silyphily
Mash editor



Jimmy Greenfield @cgreenx ChicagoNow community manager



Evan F. Moore @eventmoore RedEye contributor

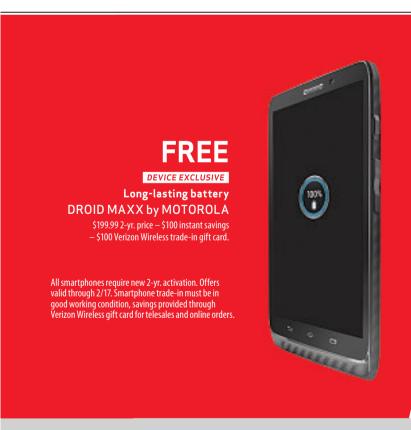


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We picked the best answers from Twitter and Facebook. It's that simple. What are you waiting for?

	If you could add an event to the Winter Games, what would It be?	Slopestyle trauma response: The snowboarder who gets the fastest medical attention lives.	The 46-man luge dodge.	Pothole dodging, A South Sider would win the gold easily.	Snowmobiling.	Wince LiFonti: Shoveling out a Chicago parking spot. Judged on speed, quality and creativ- ity of object used to save spot.
2	When you hear the word "slopestyle," what comes to mind?	Peyton Manning's throwing motion.	"Heeeeeey, sexy lady!"	A teenager who sags his skinny jeans.	Something I tried in college— I passed out for four days.	@WindyCityLA When the mattress is on a tilt but you're too tired to fix it, so you just do it slopestyle.
3	The Olympics opening cer- emonies wouldn't be the same without	A parade of stray dogs riding nonflushing toilets filled with yellow water down a half-paved street. Thanks, Sochi.	That one country whose name you didn't realize actually start- ed with a different letter.	A heavy amount of jingoism.	Oh, the wonderful silly uniforms.	@davelosso All those dancing bears. Who taught them how to dance?!
4	How should the Bears spend the money from their in- creased ticket prices?	Pass rusher. Now ponder this: If you're peddling defense signs outside the stadium, does that make you a "D" fence?	Return the money by decreas- ing ticket prices. Win-win.	Spend the dough on a de- fensive tackle who won't get blocked into the Field Museum.	That thing they did with their offense last offseason? Do it again with the defense.	@rooklephenom Trade Conte and double down on 13 cheer- leaders and a popcorn stand.
5	What should the new David Beckham-owned MLS team be called?	Becks on the Beach. Could also double as the name of a cock- tail served at the stadium.	The Miami I Really Could Not Care Less.	Manchester Madrid Galaxy, You know, after some of the teams Beckham has played for.	The Bend-its, That's from "Bend it Like Beckham," oh never mind.	@Losso_Fitness Faunthawk Down.





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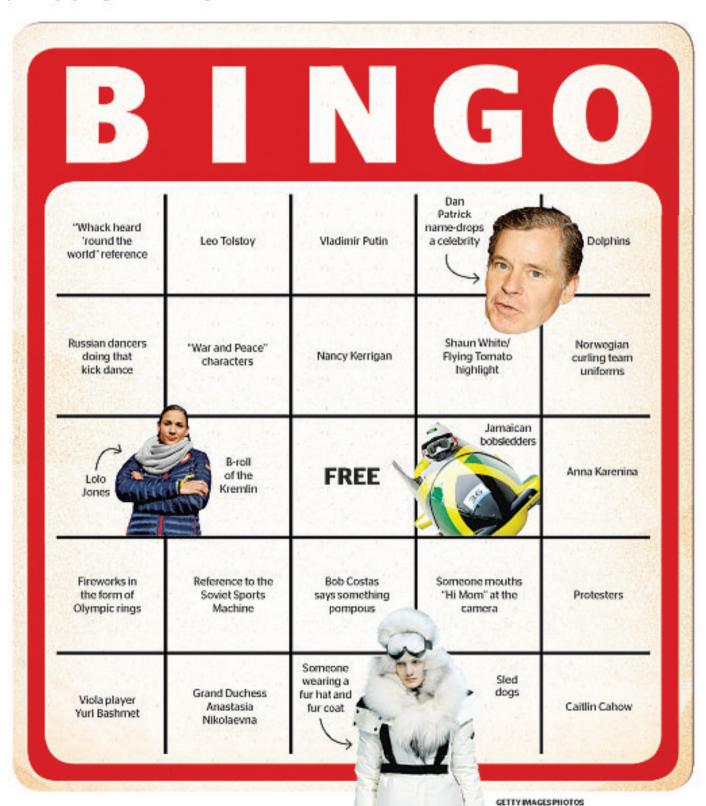
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# S-O-C-H-I, S-O-C-H-I ...

#### And Olympics is the game-o

Even on tape delay, the Olympics opening ceremonies manage to keep their shine. They're even more fun when you can play bingo while watching them. REDENE

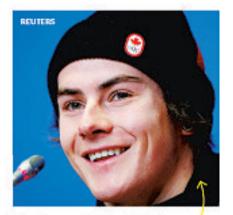


#### **COLD RUSH**

Each day during the Sochi Olympics, we'll share what's giving us chills—good or bad.

#### The world's sweethearts

As if we needed another reason to love the Jamaican bobsled team, "We had to hold a press conference to ask people to stop [donating money for expenses]," sled pilot Winston Watts said. "We are not greedy people."



#### 'Not even hating,' but ...

Canadian snowboarder Sebastien Toutant is still railing against Shaun White's decision to skip slopestyle. "To take an American spot and to just not do it. I think it's bad for Americans. One other guy could have been here competing right now."

#### 1,539 hours over 18 days

That's how much coverage NBC is broadcasting during the Games. The breakdown: NBC (185 hours), MSNBC (45), NBC Sports Network (230), USA Network (43), CNBC (36) and nbcolympics.com (1,000).

#### MORE ONLINE

For more photos, video and complete Sochi Olympics coverage, visit redeyechicago.com/winterolympics.

#### BLING RING

Medals being awarded this weekend:

SATURDAY
BIATHLON: MENS
SPRINT TO KN
CROSS-COUNTRY
SKING WOMEN'S
SNATHLON 75 KN
CLASSIC AND 25
KN FREE
FREESTYLE SRUING
WOMEN'S MOGULS
SNOWSGOARDENG
MEN'S SLOPESTYLE
SPEEDSKATING
MEN'S 5000
METERS

SUNDAY ALPINE SKIING MEN'S DOWNHELL BIATHLON: WOMEN'S 75 KM/SPRINT

CROSS-COUNTRYSKING-MEN'S SKIATHLON IS KIN CLASSIC AND IS KINFREE LUGE: MEN'S SINGLES SKIJUMPING: MEN'S HOR-MAL HILL INDIVIDUAL

SNOWBOARDING: WOMEN'S SLOPESTYLE SPEEDSKATING: WOMEN'S 3,000 METERS

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THE FUTURE OF DRIVING IS ON DISPLAY

#### Chicago Tribune

The formula for success at an auto show is the same as at the new-car dealership: Pack the room with a variety of new products loaded with creature comforts, plus the latest and greatest electronic gadgets that operate at the touch of a button or the sound of a voice, and people will flock through the doors.

The Chicago Auto Show offers a host of new products available now or on the way soon. Here are some of the exciting vehicles scheduled to appear at the Chicago Auto Show.

#### CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

When: Saturday-Feb. 17 Where: McCormick Place, 2301 S. Martin Luther King Drive

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#### Corvette ZO6

Several less costly, more fuelefficient cars are at the show, but it's a safe bet more people will pause to gawk at the ZO6 than at all the economy cars on display combined.

With a 6.2-liter, 625-horsepower supercharged V-8 teamed with a seven-speed manual or new eight-speed automatic, this is the more potent offshoot of the 450-horsepower Corvette Stingray.

Wider tires and stance are designed for optimum performance handling, as is a new competition bucket seat with large side bolsters for more lateral support during aggressive motoring.



#### **Ford F-150**

Redesigned and re-engineered, the best-selling vehicle in the industry during the past 32 years went on an aluminum diet to shed 700 pounds in order to boost mileage. Body panels are now aluminum, which, historically, has cost more than steel, though no word yet on price-either to buy or repair.

Neat features include 360-degree exterior cameras to help navigate narrow roads or off-road trails; integrated cargo bed loading ramps; cargo box brackets/cleats to secure storage bins; remote tailgate lock/unlock/release using the key fob; and power outlets to charge tools on-site or while driving. On sale this fall.



#### Cadillac ATS coupe

Only about a year after the small Cadillac ATS four-door sedan bowed, the new two-door ATS coupe is on its way as the next offspring. The two-door allows a couple of other additions to the family eventually—a high-performance V sports version and a convertible. Cadillac offers the choice of front- or all-wheel drive.

The sedan is for fashion; the coupe is for fun, with more nimble performance handling. The new coupe offers a 2-liter, 272-horsepower turbo four-cylinder or a 3.6-liter, 321-horsepower V-6.



#### **BMW 7 Series diesel**

Yep, a luxury sedan that pampers adults with every imaginable amenity yet burns diesel fuel to deliver small, economy car mileage in the big luxury BMW flagship.

Auto stop/start saves fuel.
Thanks to a turbo boost to the 3-liter, 255-horsepower in-line six-cylinder diesel teamed with eight-speed automatic, the high-mileage (30 mpg highway) sedan doubles as a high-performance (0 to 60 mph in 6.1 seconds) sports sedan for best-of-both-worlds operation without having to hide a battery pack in the trunk or slip a big V-8 under the hood.



#### **Ford Mustang**

Mustang probably has been at more auto shows than most people wandering the McCormick Place complex. The next-generation Ford icon first went on sale April 17, 1964. To celebrate 50 years, every 2015 Mustang will have a galloping pony logo on the instrument panel that says "Mustang—Since 1964."

While retaining the longhood, short-deck styling, the new car is lower, with a wider stance that not only improves handling, but fits two golf bags in the trunk. The convertible top, which lowers twice as fast, is more insulated for a quieter cabin.



#### **Toyota FT-1**

The company that fathered the Prius family of fuelstingy hybrids spotlights what looks like the potential rebirth of the high-performance Supra sports car with this concept coupe whose design borrows from the 1990s Supra as well as Celica.

Muscle versus mileage. The FT-1 (FT stands for "Future Toyota," 1 for "ultimate") is a "symbol of Toyota's design future" and has been dubbed a "spiritual pace car." The body curves enhance handling aerodynamics and road-gripping down force, and a deployable rear spoiler pops up at high speeds to maximize road grip.



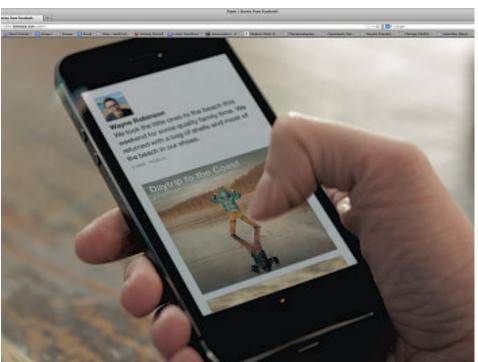
#### **Kia Soul EV**

Add another battery-powered, no-gas entry due out after its Chicago Auto Show debut. Kia claims up to 120 miles driving range before the need for a five-hour battery recharge using a 240-volt outlet or about 25 minutes using a fast charger.

Being eco-friendly, the Soul EV uses interior components and trim incorporating recycled materials, such as plastic and fabric. It will be powered by a 190-horsepower lithium-ion battery pack, with estimated 0-to-60-mph acceleration in about 12 seconds and a top speed of 80 to 90 mph.







# Will iPhone users be riveted to Facebook's Paper app?

#### **Los Angeles Times**

If you want to get a glimpse of Facebook's future, download Paper, the social network's new mobile news reader.

The iPhone app is part of what Facebook says is its big push to deliver "the best personalized newspaper in the world."

But it's more than just an app for reading news. It's Facebook reimagined for the smaller screen.

Paper doesn't just help users discover news on dozens of topics. It also can be used to browse a News Feed, get messages and notifications and search Facebook.

That has led some observers to speculate that—if popular with users—Paper could become the new face of Facebook on mobile devices, one day replacing the current Facebook app.

For now, Facebook wants to establish Paper as the go-to news reader, taking on Google News, Twitter, mobile app Flipboard and LinkedIn's Pulse. Facebook declined to say how many people have downloaded the app, which became available Monday.

The effort comes after Facebook changed what kinds of news users see in their News Feed. In December, Facebook began favoring what it calls "high quality" news publishers over viral videos and other Web content.

With Paper, users swipe to browse their News Feed or stories on topics including technology, sports, cooking, even "pride," a section on gay rights.

The image-rich format is colorful and uncluttered. There are no buttons to click or menus to navigate. The overall experience is much like leafing through the pages of a glossy magazine, albeit one on a very small screen.

Paper owes that look and feel to Mike Matas and his team at Facebook Creative Labs, a new company initiative charged with coming up with new apps. Matas designed software for the original iPhone. Facebook bought his company, Push Pop Press, in 2011.

Facebook has been working on developing standalone apps as a way to catch up to the emerging trend of apps developed for specific purposes, such as Instagram for photo-sharing and Snapchat and WhatsApp for messaging.

In 2012, when Instagram was surging in popularity, Facebook built a separate Camera app. Then it bought Instagram for \$1 billion in cash and stock.

In December 2012, Facebook launched Poke, a clone of Snapchat, the popular app that makes messages disappear after they are viewed. Poke flopped. Facebook bid \$3 billion for Snapchat Inc. but was rebuffed.

Last year it redesigned its stand-alone Messenger app, which is growing in popularity.

The goal: keep users deeply engaged so the company can continue to show them ads and command high ad prices. Last week, Facebook reported better-than-expected ad sales, which lifted the stock to record highs.



at McCormick Place

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box sitting on

the hood of my ketchup-red 1960 Alfa Romeo Spider. But until my visit to Chef's Burger Bistro in Streeterville, I had never had a burger presided over by a certified master chef. To earn that honor, chef/partner Edward Leonard endured a grueling 10-day cooking trial demonstrating his proficiency across a variety of cuisines for the American Culinary Federation. He is, in fact, the only chef holding this distinction in Chicago. Clearly Leonard is a master, but would his burger be masterful?

**The burger:** Leonard told me that his beef mix, which is ground fresh in-house daily, was developed with some "German butcher"

which has roughly an 80 percent beef to 20 percent fat ratio. \*I know everyone wants lean nowadays, but you need some of that fat to get a juicy patty," he said. I wholeheartedly agree, but though I requested my patty medium-rare, his cooks had left the patty in the Spanish-style Wood Stone charcoal broiler oven a little too long. In fact, both of the thick patties I tried were bereft of juice and had only a touch of pinkness. The meat had a nice mouth-coating beefiness and an earthy, mineral-rich flavor; however, I did not detect a single grain of salt on this under-seasoned patty. I should also mention that patties are available in two sizes: 115 grams (approximately 4 ounces) and 230 grams (roughly 8 ounces) and noted as "handforged" on the menu. Why Leonard insists on these idiosyncratic labeling choices, I cannot fathom. Perhaps he fancies himself a European blacksmith?

The bun: Leonard—who said one of the best burgers he ever had came from a little cafe in Dijon, France, where the chef ground the meat fresh, made the pickles in-house and the brioche roll from scratch—said he thinks most hamburger rolls are too soft. As a result, he worked with a baker in San Francisco to develop the harder, glazed brioche-style roll used on many of burgers at Chef's Burger Bistro. I admire Leonard's discipline and agree that some buns out there are too soft; however, I do believe that sometimes great chefs overthink things. Leonard's hefty bun

was a good size to stand up to the thick patty; but it was also dry and heavy:

The fixings: The extensive choice of toppings -**Duck fat fries** which includes interesting gems such as crab, mortadella, foie gras and pecorino-is befitting of a master chef. One can even order a slather of peanut butter! As a burger expert, I do often like to build my own burger (\$6 for the 4-ounce burger or \$8 for the 8-ounce, plus 50 cents for cheese, 75 cents for veggies and \$1 for luxury ingredients such as foie or crab) but in the hands of a master chef, I decided to defer to Leonard's expertise and his pre-selected topping combinations. While I have groused about the overcooking and the harder bun, Leonard is a master when it comes to orchestrating flavors. His chicken-fried burger (\$7 for 4-ounce; \$10 for 8-ounce), a fat patty fried in a tempura-like batter slathered with gravy, sauteed mushroom and onion jam, would harden the arteries and capture the heart of the most jaded Waffle House-loving southerner. I am somewhat embarrassed to admit this, but the rich pepper-and-mushroomfilled gravy has since inspired a few illicit dreams involving heaping portions of beef stroganoff.

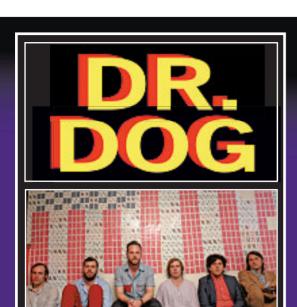
Likewise, his Paris burger, (\$7 for the 4-ounce burger, \$10 the 8-ounce), topped with sweet onion jam, fondue-like brie, curly frisee greens and candied tomatoes is a rev-

elation. To make these
wondrous tomatoes,
the skins are removed
and they are then coated
with vanilla bean paste,
tellicherry black pepper
and olive oil, and slow-roasted for hours. The sweet, juicy

tomato flavor that results might just be the best invention since bottled ketchup.

The fries: I don't want to give away too many of my secrets, but the fact of the matter is, The Great Burgerelli likes to sit close to the kitchen whenever possible to keep a close watch on the preparation of my burger. Unfortunately, at Chef's Burger Bistro, this also allowed me to watch as my glorious batch of duck fat fries (\$4) sat underneath a heat lamp for almost 10 minutes waiting for my burgers to be cooked. By the time the mahogany-skinned hand-cut fries had arrived at my table, they were soggy and limp. My friend's regular fries, which were cooked to order, were crisp and perfect.

Bottom line: I do not doubt the skills of Leonard, and the flavor combinations on his burgers are exquisite. But, in a restaurant of this size, a master chef cannot cook all the burgers; he must rely on others. Leonard must find a way to bring his cooks up to speed, so that all the effort he spent developing his burger repertoire doesn't result in overcooked meat. THE GREAT BURGERELLIIS A FEARLESS SEEKER OF FINE BURGERS.



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### THE ESSENTIALS



#### By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

I have a habit of tweeting meat porn. Sometimes the centerpiece of my protein brags—a spicy, juicy currywurst sausage made from local pork, for example—comes from Noble Square's Butcher & Larder, owned by Rob and Allie Levitt. When I'm grilling up something else—say, a brontosaurus-sized tomahawk ribeye that I usually procure from another local butcher shop that doesn't get its meat from local farms—Rob will tweet me with a gentle ribbing about how it's been a while since I've visited his shop. It's a subtle, not preachy, reminder: Where your meat comes from and how it was raised matters.

A few years ago, if you wanted to cook with local meat, you pretty much had to stick to frozen, pre-butchered cuts from Green City Market and other farmers markets. If you really wanted fresh, local farm meat, dining out was your best option. One of the few restaurants you could always count on getting local meat was the Levitts' snout-to-tail Wicker Park restaurant Mado.

When Mado closed in 2010, the Levitts were kind of burnt out, and with a child on the way, were looking for a new way to make a living. Rob noticed that his friends at the Brooklyn butcher shop Meat Hook were pretty successful and he and Allie decided to start their own retail butcher shop.

As a restaurateur, Rob had access to the best locally farmed ingredients; at Butcher & Larder, he has succeeded in bringing them to home-cooking Chicagoans. If you need bones for stock, pig's feet for a bean dish or farm-fresh eggs, this is your place. Their meat comes from within a few hundred miles, from

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1026 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-687-8280

Looks like: Pig tchotchkes, shiny knives and ruddy cuts of meat

Sounds like: Black Sabbath followed by Coltrane on the house sound system punctuated by the smartass, chop-busting friendly banter of the butchers

Smells like: Freshly butchered meat and the perfume of whatever beautiful soup is roasting in the slow cooker near the counter

small, sustainable farms that rarely sell to retail, such as Slagel Family Farms in Fairbury, Ill., or Gunthorp Farms in LaGrange, Ind.

Levitt and most of his other butchers worked in restaurant kitchens before they became butchers, which means they also make incredible prepared food and charcuterie. These items vary from week to week, so call ahead to see what's on offer. There's a mean chili verde (a garlicky pork sausage and green chili-filled stew that warmed my soul on a recent snowy Saturday; price ranges from \$3 for a cup to \$16 for a quart). The Italian beef with hot giardiniera (\$10 for a sandwich, soda and chips) is one of the best in the city.

Maybe the most overplayed trope about the food business is how it's like a family. At Butcher & Larder, though, it's true. When you're a customer, if only for a few minutes, the Levitts and their staff bring you into that fold, too. And once they get your trust, they can get you to eat anything. As Levitt said, "We'll do braised pig's head on an apple fritter and we'll sell more of that than a ham and cheese sandwich."

 $\label{thm:michael nagrant is a redeye special contributor. \\$ 



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5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR



Kinmont 419 W. Superior St. 312-915-0011

This River North restaurant from Element Collective—the group behind Old Town Social, Nellcote and RM Champagne Salon-is all about sustainable seafood. Chef Duncan Biddulph, who has worked at Rootstock and Lula Cafe, cooks up dishes such as whitelish chowder, squid ink spaghetti and grilled sturgeon



Celeste 111 W. Hubbard St. 312-828-9000 Speculation over what would finally open in the former Swirl Wine Bar space in River North was put to rest earlier this week with the opening of Celeste, a two-floor cocktail bar inspired by the glamour of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Order a craft cocktail, a glass of wine or beer from the first-floor bar; head upstairs for beveragefriendly food in the supper club or a nightcap in the lounge.

#### East Room

2828 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-276-9603

Look for the red light above a black door-that's all the indication you'll see that you've reached the entrance to this days-old bar in Logan Square. The new spot is decked out in pinkish lighting, red wallpaper and a prominent DJ booth, which you'd expect from owners (and music and nightlife promoters) Zack Eastman and Blake Witsman.

#### The Winchester

1001 N. Winchester Ave. 773-698-8703

Former Sepia general manager Chris Pappas, The Dawson designer Dan Sheehy and former Tavernita chef Greg Bastien are behind this neighborhood eatery in Ukainian Village. Breakfast options-think hearty egg sandwiches, avocado toast and quinoa cakes-sound especially tempting.

#### Stan's Donuts & Coffee 1560 N. Damen Ave. 773-360-7386

There are a few important things to know about this Wicker Park spin-off of the L.A.-based doughnut shop of the same name: The coffee is from Intelligentsia, peanut butter-filled doughnuts are called "pockets"-and you can sit on one of those adorable old-fashioned barstools while you devour them





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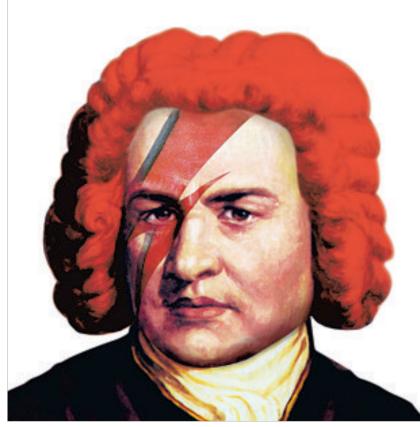
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# **NEW ON DVD**

**Noel Murray** | Los Angeles Times



#### **The Best Man Holiday**

Fourteen years after Malcolm D. Lee scored a surprise hit with his ensemble romantic comedy "The Best Man"-about the relationship woes of young, affluent African-Americans-Lee had even greater success with this Christmasthemed sequel. Reuniting a powerhouse cast that includes Taye Diggs, Sanaa Lathan, Terrence Howard, Regina Hall, Morris Chestnut, Nia Long and Harold Perrineau, "The Best Man Holiday" crams a lot of plot into two hours, but the characters are good company even when they're sniping at one another (something they do a lot). The film does ratchet up the melodrama, poignantly catching longtime friends as their lives get complicated by aging.

Extras: Outtakes, deleted scenes, featurettes and a Lee commentary

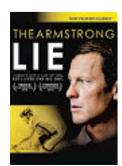




#### The Counselor

Any movie as polarizing as last year's "The Counselor" is a mustsee for adventurous cinephiles. Alternately tagged as one of 2013's worst and best, the Ridley Scott-directed, Cormac McCarthyscripted anti-thriller defies audience expectations: It's a brutally violent and explicitly sexual film that's also talky and deliberately paced, following a group of powerful men and women involved in drug trafficking on the Mexico-Texas border. Scott has a starstudded cast, including Michael Fassbender, Brad Pitt, Cameron Diaz. Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem (who won an Oscar for the McCarthy adaptation "No Country for Old Men"), but they're all giving mannered, eccentric performances, unlike their usual screen personas.

Extras: Featurettes and an extended cut that runs 21 minutes longer



#### **The Armstrong Lie**

Give credit to Alex Gibnev: Even with as many documentaries as he cranks out in any given year, he always finds new ways into stories that audiences may think they already know. For "The Armstrong Lie," Gibney tackles disgraced former champion cyclist Lance Armstrong, who after years of denials—including to Gibney, who had been documenting Armstrong's comeback attempt-finally admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs. More personal than most Gibney docs, "The Armstrong Lie" isn't just about this particular sports hero; it's about how the media packages athletes and about the complicity of journalists like Gibney himself.

Extras: Deleted scenes, interviews and a Gibney commentary track



#### **Wadida**

Haifaa Mansour's debut feature got a lot of attention for being a film made in Saudi Arabia by a woman-as well as a film about the social restrictions that keep women in check. But "Wadjda" is far from some heavy-handed political tract; it's a charming, heartwarming movie that follows a free-spirited 10-year-old as she tries to win a bicycle that the authorities won't allow her to ride. The film is actually ideal for young people who want to learn more about what life is like for kids in other parts of the world.

Extras: A featurette, Q&A and director commentary

# This is your reminder: Clooney isn't perfect

# Boy, there's nothing as thrilling as search-



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ers who arrive at their target and say, "Yep, there it is."

That's all the excitement found in the dull "The Monuments Men," which suggests its interesting true story makes better fodder for cocktail party discussion than a movie. Director/co-

writer George Clooney stars as Frank Stokes, who during WWII gathers a group of men (including Matt Damon, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin and, as an architect plucked from Chicago, Bill Murray) to locate and recover priceless art that the Nazis have stolen and hidden. Obviously, it's difficult to avoid



The Monuments Men

thinking of "Ocean's Eleven" as Clooney puts together his sneaky crew, even if this time his guys are gambling on a much higher level.

This fact-based movie could have been unrealistic and heart-pounding or authentic and dry. Take a guess which path Clooney chose. As Stokes talks about the importance of protecting humanity's achievements, the filmmaker succeeds with the "What?" and the "Why?" of "The Monuments Men" but shrugs off the "How?" Two hours pass with not enough consequence. It's funny that Granger (Damon) speaks lousy French (one of his statements translates to, "It is noble when work in dirt"), and "The Monuments Men" has a few nice scenes of the guys banding together and proving they're soldiers, not



just preservationists getting in the way of reluctant commanders.

But the pacing and comic timing feel slack, with Clooney continuing a disappointing slide from a director in firm control ("Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," "Good Night, and Good Luck") to one whose stories don't really pop ("Leatherheads," "The Ides of March"). There's little that the cast, which also includes Cate Blanchett as a woman

from whom Granger tries to get information, can do to enliven the material—unlike last week's "That Awkward Moment," which became a lot better thanks to its stars.

"The Monuments Men" does achieve something rare in that you may turn to a history book for more. Or possibly Wikipedia. Or maybe you'll just watch the comparable and more memorable "Simpsons" episode about the Flying Hellfish and call it a day.

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■ Lone Survivor (R) (Closed caption) 2:15, 5:15, 8:05, 10:55
■ The Wolf of Wall Street (R) (Closed caption) 11:15, 3:00, 6:50, 9:45
■ American Hustle (R) (Closed caption) 12:00, 3:50, 7:10, 10:35
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■AMC Independent Labor Day (PG-13) \* D 11:10, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10,

10:50
■I, Frankenstein (PG-13) B 9:55
■The LEGO Movie 3D (PG) ★ 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
■Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13) B 11:33, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
■Ride Along (PG-13) B 10:05, 1:235, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35
■The Monuments Men (PG-13) ★ B 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00
■Vampire Academy (PG-13) ★ B 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
■J, Frankenstein 3D (PG-13) 7:25
■MC Independent August: Osage County (R) B 10:25, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:28

The Wolf of Wall Street (B) Ft 10:45 2:45 6:45 10:45

■ The Wolf of Wall Street (R) D 10:45, 2:45, 6:45, 10:4

■ American Hustle (R) D 10:00, 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 10:55

■ Lone Survivor (R) D 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:15, 11:00

■ The Nut Job (PG) D 11:25, 1:50, 4:05, 6:25

■AMC Independent Dallas Buyers Club (R) Ð 10:15, 1:10, 4:15 ■AMC Independent Nebraska (R) Ð 10:20, 3:20, 8:20

■AMC Independent Philomena (PG-13) 11:40, 2:05, 4:20, 6:40, 8:35 ■AMC Independent **Her** (R) ₱ 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 9:00, 10:35 ■**The LEGO Movie** (PG) ★ ₱ 10:30, 11:30, 1:15, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

■That Awkward Moment (R) ★ D 11.45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
■AMC Independent Cavemen (R) ★ D 7:05, 9:35
■AMC Independent Hasee Toh Phasee (NR) ★ D 10:35, 1:50, 5:05

■Frozen Sing-Along (NR) D 11:40, 2:20, 4:50

#### SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #2309 ■Frozen (Pg) 10 10:30, 4:00, 6:50 ■AMC Independent Labor Day (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:50, 1:40, 4:25, 7:20,

■1, Frankenstein (PG-13) Ð 10:25 ■Gravity: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, ■The LEGO Movie 3D (PG) ★ 10:00, 12:30, 6:00

■ Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13) Ð 1:55, 5:20, 8:05, 9:55 ■ Ride Along (PG-13) Ð 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:45 ■ The Monuments Men (PG-13) ★ Ð 10:15, 11:15, 1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15

7:15, 8:15, 10:15, 11:00 **EVampire Academy** (PG-13) ★ Ð 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30 ■AMC Independent August: Osage County (R) £ 10:10, 1:15, 4:10

| ■AMC independent August Usage County (n) 0 10.10, 1.19, 4.10, 7.10, 10.10
| ■The Wolf of Wall Street (R) D 10:00, 4:10, 6:40, 9:50
| ■American Hustle (R) D 10:05, 1:20, 4:30, 7:45, 10:05
| ■Lone Survivor (R) D 10:55, 2:45, 4:35, 7:40, 10:40
| ■The Nut Job (R) D 10:10, 1:230, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35
| ■AMC Independent Dallas Buyers Club (R) ★ D 9:30
| ■AMC Independent Philomena (PG-13) 10:05, 12:25, 5:40, 10:50
| ■The LEGO Movie (PG) ★ D 10:45, 11:45, 1:30, 2:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:45, 10:30
| ■That Awkward Moment (R) ★ D 10:20, 1:50, 4:05, 8:00, 10:35
| ■AMC Independent Philomena Slave (R) B 12:50

C Independent 12 Years a Slave (R) £ 12:50 zen Sing-Along (NR) \* £ 1:10

#### **WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)**

(800) 326-3264 #1641 nts Men (PG-13) \* (Closed caption) 11:00, 2:10

■The LEGO Movie 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:30,

■The LEGO Movie (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:20, 1:50, 4:30.

#### **SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)**

| Local | 1981 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

■The LEGO Movie 3D (PG) ★ 11:30, 2:00, 7:00 ■Jack Rvan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13) Ð 10:15 ■Ride Along (PG-13) D 10:45, 11:45, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:45,

ments Men (PG-13) \* D 10:00, 12:45, 3:30, 6:30,

9:30 ■Vampire Academy (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:15, 1:00, 3:40, 6:15, 9:00 ■I, Frankenstein 3D (PG-13) 5:00 ■AMC Independent August: Osage County (R) ★ ₱ 12:00,

3:10, 6:15, 9:40 **American Hustle** (R) D 11:45, 2:50, 6:00, 9:15

■Lone Survivor (R) D 10:30, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
■The Nut Job (PG) D 10:45, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:15
■Devil's Due (R) D 10:25
■The LEGO Movie (PG) ★ D 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 8:00,

9:30, 10:30 ■That Awkward Moment (R) ★ Ð 10:10, 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 ■Frozen Sing-Along (NR) ★ £ 2:00

#### SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cerrnak., Cicero (800) 326-3264 #1644

■Frozen (PG) Ð 10:10, 3:55, 6:45, 9:35 ■AMC Independent Labor Day (PG-13) Ð 10:50, 1:40, 4:30,

7:20, 10:10 ■I. Frankenstein (PG-13) Đ 11:00

■1, Frankenstein (PG-13) € 11:00 ■The LEGO Movie 3D (PG) 12:30, 6:00 ■The LEGO Movie 3D (PG) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30

■Ride Along (PG-13) Đ 11:05, 11:50, 1:50, 2:35, 4:35, 7:15, 7:50,

■The Monuments Men (PG-13) € 10:20, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00

■The Monuments Men (PG-13) B 10:20, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00
■Vampira Academy (PG-13) B 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
■I, Frankenstein 3D (PG-13) B:35
■Lone Survivor (R) B 10:30, 1:35, 4:40, 7:45, 10:50
■The Nut Job (PG) B 9:45, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 9:40
■Devil's Due (R) B 10:45
■The LEGO Movie (PG) B 9:45, 10:15, 10:45, 11:45, 1:00, 1:30, 20:20, 20:15, 4:45, 5:16, 20:30, 20:00, 20:00, 20:00, 20:30,

2:30, 3:15, 3:45, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:20, 10:30 

That Awkward Moment (R) D 10:00, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10,

■The Legend of Hercules (PG-13) € 5:20

## SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago (21) 564-2104 (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:40, 4:30,

Graying 30 (FG-13) \* (Josed Caption) 11:10, 1:40, 4:30, 7:40

10:10

The Monuments Men (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:00, 12:30, 1:50, 3:30, 4:50, 6:30, 7:40, 9:20, 10:30

The Monuments Men (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:15, 1:15 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

Ridd Along (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:00, 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:30, 9:40, 1:10)

8:30, 9:40, 1:10 (Closed caption) 11:15, 2:10, 7:30 (Closed Capti

5:00, 7:50, 10:50 ■Lone Survivor (R) (Closed caption) 8:10, 11:00 ■Vampire Academy (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:20. 4:15, 7:20, 10:20 ■The Wolf of Wall Street (R) (Closed caption) 10:30, 2:20, 6:10, 10:00 ■American Hustle (R) (Closed caption) 10:05, 1:10, 4:20,

**■Labor Day** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:15, 5:15.

8:00, 10:55 ■Her (R) (Closed caption) 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45 ■The Monuments Men (PG-13) \* (Closed caption) VIP Premis 21+11:00, 12:30, 1:50, 3:30, 4:50, 6:30, 7:40, 9:20, 10:30

## OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC) 1022 Lake Street, Oak Park \_(630) 444-FILM #560

■Frozen (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00
■Labor Day (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00
■The LEGO Movie 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30. 7:45, 10:00 ■The Monuments Men (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35

—American Hustle (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 3:55, 6:50, 9:45

—Her (R) (Closed caption) 9:20

—The LEGO Movie (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30,

6:45, 9:00 ■That Awkward Moment (R) (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:00,

EVANSTON
CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
7/15 Maple Ave. Eyanston
(847) 492-0728 6
12 Years a Slave (8) D (Closed caption) 3:45, 7:05, 10:15
27 Pears a Slave (8) D (Closed caption) 11:45, 3:40

10:20 Monuments Men (PG-13) (Closed caption) 7-00, 10:00
The Monuments Men (PG-13) (Closed Caption) 17:30, 10:50
2:30, 3:50, 5:50, 8:30
Her (R) UGlosed caption) 11:5, 4:20, 7:25, 10:30
Lone Survivor (R) UGlosed caption) 1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 10:15
August Sage County (R) D (Closed Caption) 1:50, 4:45,

7.40, 10:30 ■Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 12:00, 9:15 Ride Along (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 12:15, 2:45, 5:25,

8:00, 10:35

The Nut Job (PG-13) C(losed caption) 11:35, 6:45, 9:40

Labor Day (PG-13) B (Closed caption) 12:35, 6:45, 9:40

That Awkward Moment (R) D (Closed caption) 12:20, 2:55,

Inal Awkward moneton, 19 (Closed caption) 11:30, 12:50, 2:10, 2:50, 2:50, 0:50, 10; 2:00 (Closed caption) 11:30, 12:50, 2:10, 330, 6:50, 6:50, 7:30, 10:10, 10:40 (Closed caption) 13:0, 4:10 (The LEGO Movie 3D (FG) (Closed caption) 12:10, 2:50, 6:50, 10:1

8:10, 9:30 ■Vampire Academy (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:25,



# Chicago's Valentine's Day Gift Guide

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# **She has late** reservations

FAST PAISED Matt Pais

Alone in a crowded club, some people would wither or wait for someone else to act. Not Gloria (Paulina Garcia). She dances. She mingles. She parks herself

at a table and meets people. This divorced mother of two grown children isn't skydiving or sailing around the world, but she's putting herself out there and refusing to let her later vears drift along.

Garcia won best actress at international film fests in both Berlin and Hawaii, and you won't find a disagreement here. The best compliment the Chilean drama "Gloria" deserves is that it captures how it feels to be its title character (who in an American remake could be played by Mary McDonnell of "Major Crimes"). That doesn't happen without Garcia's subtle command of her character's desire and disappointment.

The movie itself isn't as controlled. Not particularly close with her son and daughter, Gloria attempts to meet a man on the dance floor and seems to find a gem in Rodolfo (Sergio Hernández), who's been divorced only a



year but can't take his eyes off her. Since no relationship is totally smooth sailing, these two must deal with Rodolfo's allegiance to his over-dependent daughters and his bizarre, inexplicable tendency toward unreliability.

Director Sebastián Lelio can't quite leave well enough alone, though. "Gloria" contains several pushy scenes in which themes—Gloria talks about people transforming! Gloria gets spun around on a carousel!—are spelled out directly, which doesn't suit the character. In its second half, the film loses both steam and credibility, though Lelio earns points for depicting Gloria smoking weed without the cartoonish goofballery of "At Middleton" or any antics mimicking "Last Vegas."

The movie makes the sad point that it's easy to blame the failure of young relationships on naivete, but it's borderline depressing to look at the present and realize you still don't have it all figured out. Thanks to Garcia, "Gloria" represents the wounded triumph of not giving up.



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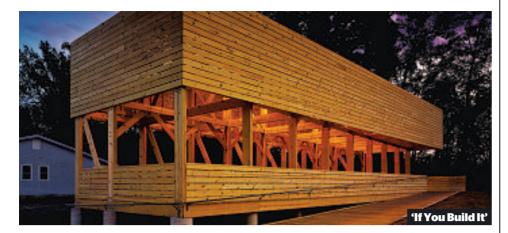
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IN THEATERS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

### movies



# Good for you

FAST PAISED

# Matt Pais

@tribune.cor

No one denies that kids can thrive with access to properly funded resources and dedicated teachers.

Yet Chicago native director Patrick Creadon's limited

doc "If You Build It" only strives to show the benefits of education with practical applications and hard work. Don't get me wrong: I think it's great that design-focused problem solvers Emily Pilloton and Matt Miller continued their work with high school kids in North Carolina after the school board pulled the pair's salaries off the table.

Pilloton and Miller teach students—one of whom would rather shovel animal feces than go to class—to build a cornhole board, a chicken coop and a farmer's market. The hope is that not only will these teens discover a creative outlet, but the town, which considers a new Domino's a significant increase in job opportunities, may see an uplifting effect from the market's prosperity.

Again: This is good work being done.



But "If You Build It" forgets to analyze the school board behaviors it broadly attacks by actually talking to the decision-makers. Creadon should have spoken with locals who have stayed and those who have left, and get closer to concerns about "brain drain" in a place everyone supposedly can't wait to escape.

Financial and strategic problems in the education system aren't easy to tackle onscreen, as evidenced by the uneven "Waiting for Superman" and shallow "Won't Back Down." Still, "If You Build It" exists in a vacuum, and seems to minimize several hiccups along the way. A film like this should try harder to assess the problem it identifies, rather than swooping in with proactive help that can't necessarily be replicated on a grand scale. It's like a movie about people who see someone with a broken leg and say, "I bet you'd feel better after a massage."





# **Everything is awesome**

FAST PAISED

## Matt Pais

mpais@tribune.coimattnais

I know. Four stars for "The Lego Movie"?
Believe it. "The Lego Movie" is the funniest, most fun movie in (insert considerable amount of time), and I can't

wait to see it again. By the way: It's written and directed by the guys who helmed the excellent "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and directed the surprising "21 Jump Street." "Lego" isn't some run-of-the-mill, kids-only shrug fest like virtually every other animated effort out there. Its whizzing, 3-D depiction of Legos—oops, apparently the plural of Lego is Lego—that feels fresh and exciting. And the movie's hardly an ad for toys. It's a sincere, hilarious endorsement of imagination and what it can be used to build.

Soon-to-be-huge-movie-star Chris Pratt ("Parks and Recreation," "Guardians of the Galaxy") voices Emmet, a lonely construc-

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tion worker whose great achievement is being an instruction-following cog in the machine. His favorite song is the society-wide hit "Everything is Awesome," his favorite restaurant is "any chain restaurant" and his favorite show is TV's beloved "Where Are My Pants?", which sounds like something out of "Idiocracy." Emmet's life changes when he stumbles onto the Piece of Resistance, which, according to a prophecy relayed by wise old Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman), means Emmet is the most important person in the universe and the key to stopping President Business (Will Ferrell) from destroying the world.

The rate of jokes in "The Lego Movie" is beyond mega-fast, and if I told you the percentage of winners, you'd call me a liar. Emmet develops a strong connection with



and fondness for a brave woman who goes by Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) and who, to Emmet's chagrin, is dating Batman (Will Arnett). Some may find "The Lego Movie" too fast or random; I thought it was an exhilarating, perfectly voiced sprint. When it breathes, it knows how to value collaboration and independence, involved parenting and adolescent freedom, a kid's perspective and an adult's sense of humor.

That balance prevents what could have been a patronizing view of blue-collar workers and folks who don't shoot for the stars. Instead, the film teaches kids and reminds adults that you are the primary excitement manager of your life. Anyone can be great, and "The Lego Movie" shows that any movie can be great too.

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# Swanberg knows what you did in the dark

FAST PAISED

# Matt Pais

» mpais@tribune.com» @mattpais

You can pretend you haven't, or you can just admit it—everyone's seen one of those late-night thrillers on Cinemax rife with low-budget murders and soft-

core intimacy.

Taking time off from his casual, mostly improvised observations of relationships ("Drinking Buddies," "Nights and Weekends"), Chicago writer-director Joe Swanberg maintains focus on the gaps that exist between couples even as he tackles an erotic mystery. Fetish photographer Billy (Adam Wingard, who directed Swanberg in "You're Next") can't help but drift over intangible lines when he chooses models based on attraction, something that inevitably causes problems with his girlfriend/colleague, Alex (Caroline White). Perhaps the couple asks



**24 Exposures** 

for it by engaging in a threesome with Callie (Anna Kendrick look-alike Sophia Takal), but Billy doesn't know what he's getting into with Rebecca (Helen Rogers) and her jealous boyfriend. Or maybe he's too drawn to her to care. As all this lust swirls, an unhappy detective ("You're Next" writer Simon Barrett) investigates the murder of a young woman.

Throughout "24 Exposures," Swanberg intentionally creates confusion about which shots of dead-looking girls are crime scenes and which are posed in Billy's photos. It's an interesting parallel, at least superficially acknowledging the disturbing notion that anyone would be turned on by a fake portrait of a girl in a bathtub with her wrists slit. The movie doesn't really delve into these ideas,



though, nor does it play with the conventions of the style it imitates.

"24 Exposures" hinges on temptation and

jealousy but, like its influences, works better as a familiar turn-on than a riveting cop drama that happens to be steamy.



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# Fans of the slow reveal, rejoice



SHOW PATROL Curt Waqner

Fans of "The Walking Dead" who aren't fans of surly Carl Grimes may not be pleased with the largely Carl-centric midseason premiere of AMC's hit. Luckily, they get a good bit of Michonne, too.

And girl still knows how to chop off zombie heads.

Showrunner Scott Gimple takes a step

back from the explosive violence of the fall finale, in which the Governor attacked the prison, decapitated Herschel and unleashed zombie hell on Rick Grimes and Co. The new episode is quiet—if not calm—by comparison.

The premiere, appropriately titled "After," picks up just seconds after the fall finale, with the prison group scattered after fleeing the wall of zombies assaulting their home. Carl (Chandler Riggs), who is on the run with his dad, Rick (Andrew Lincoln), and the katana-swinging Michonne (Danai Gurira) take the spotlight.

I don't want to get too specific about the episode, but it continues the show's tradition of visually stunning storytelling. Despite long stretches with no talking—or maybe because of them—the episode maintains the sense of dread and loneliness this zombie-filled world begets.

That's most present as we follow Mi-



chonne through the woods with two newly made "pets" to protect her. She's emotionally drained after being forced to take soul-crushing action-again with rich visuals-before leaving the prison yard. During her journey we finally learn at least part of Michonne's backstory. Flashback scenes reveal devastating new information despite being handled a bit hammily by the writers. Without speaking a line, Gurira conveys all the pain and fury Michonne experiences as history haunts her.

Riggs gets a chance to really shine in the episode as well. Carl's bratty as ever as he bullies Rick, arguing with his severely injured dad over every decision the elder tries to make. The old man still knows a thing or two about survival, but Carl isn't all that interested in listening. Still, there's enough emotional growth in his scenes to make you hope the kid won't be as annoying in the future.

Gimple has promised to delve deeper into the characters' psyches and backstories in these final eight episodes. Eventually we'll discover the fate of all the group's members - but just a few characters at a time.

This storytelling change-up makes for intense personal moments while keeping the tension of the ever-present zombie threat. The downside is you may have to wait to find out what has happened to your favorites, and if you aren't a fan of the characters spotlighted, you could lose interest incredibly fast.



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## **TODAY IN THE YEAR...**

1904: A fire began in Baltimore that raged for about 30 hours and destroyed more than 1,500 buildings.

DIFFICULTY RATING: \* \* \* \* \*

1964: The Beatles began their first American tour as they arrived at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

1990: The Soviet Union's Communist Party agreed to let other political parties compete for control of the country, giving up its monopoly on power.

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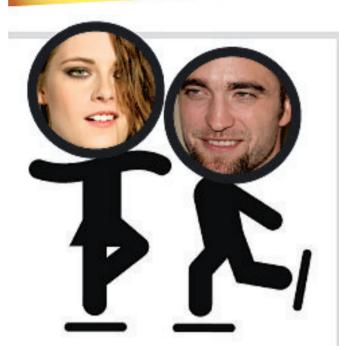
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# Send these celeb train wrecks to Sochi-stat!

### By Dana Moran | REDEVE

Concerns about security. Unsafe venues. Unfinished housing, Anti-LGBT sentiments. The Winter Olympics kicked off Thursday in Sochi with, well, quite a bit of unease. That said, athletes are still rolling up their sleeves and preparing to compete-and we've got some celebs we'd like to send off to mother Russia to play the Games alongside them, DAMORANGTRIBUNE.COM I GREDEVEDANA



# PAIRS ICE DANCING

## Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

This event is all about feeceling and emocootions and gazing deep into each other's eyes. Would this pairing force sparks to fly once again between these two? Can they contain their hatred for longer than

4 minutes? Either way, we'd be in for a treat. But what we're really looking forward to is K-Stew's sullen expression upon being crammed into some manner of sparkly Lycra ice dress.





### Nick Cannon

You might not currently be annoyed by professional Mariah Carey husband Nick Cannon. But we're sure you will be soon. That's kind of how we feel about curling, the most twee of the Olympic sports. At first, it's fun to talk about how offbeat and weird it is. Then you just

want the commentators to shut up already.





### Scott Disick

We nearly selected Kim Kardashian for this journey, but then we remembered, hey, there's another member of this family who has much less to offer the world. Ski jumping requires athletes to stay as stiff as a board, which won't be a problem for this stick-in-the-mud.

There's also an inevitable freakout to look forward to when he realizes what the wind has done to his hair.



### Snooki, The Situation, Pauly D. and Angelina We purposely picked

the four worst people on "Jersey Share"

for this one. Sure, mixed-gender sleds aren't technically allowed at the Olympics, but the IOC certainly could make an exception here. The most entertaining part of this probably will be Snooki's weasel-like screeches as the sled shoots through the hairpin turns. The Jamaican team surely will be laughing their butts off





Reminder: That's shooting a rifle and cross-country skiing. That's pretty much exactly

was written

thrilled as hell to wear some sort of colorful shootingfriendly jumpsuit that she may or may not alter to include a butt flap.





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# red hot

### **THE DIGIT**

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That's how much Prince wants to charge for tickets to his shows with new band 3RDEYEGIRL, the BBC reports. The purple wonder recently announced that figure during an intimate show at a friend's home in London. Yup, we probably can afford that.



### HOT DATE

# **MAY 21**

That's when Aziz Ansari will take to the stage at the Chicago Theatre as part of his Modern Romance tour. His new book is due out in September, so expect some zesty new material from the "Parks and Recreation" funnyman.

# Welcome to Broooooadwaaaaaaay!

What's that sound? Oh, it's Oprah, in her first role on Broadway. (We know, you already guessed it.) Her O-ness is in talks to make her debut in "'night, Mother," opposite Tony winner Audra McDonald, as a mother trying to stop her daughter from killing herself, the New York Times reports. Expect many a standing O.



As far as Adam Brody is concerned, his "O.C." character, Seth Cohen, did not meet a happy ending. "If I had to predict, I'd say Seth Cohen is dead," he told Nylon magazine. "I think he'd be going down to Mexico and probably had a bad car accident. It wasn't any fault of his own, but yeah, knowing what I know now about Seth and his poor decision-making, that's my guess." Is it just us, or has Adam gotten really ... maudlin ... lately?

## Won't drop the ball

GETTY IMAGES EILE

Super Bowl halftime show planners, pay attention. The NBA All-Star game is waxing the floor with you. Rolling Stone reports that Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue are set to lead an all-star jam session paying tribute to host city New Orleans, including Janelle Monae, Dr. John, Gary Clark Jr. and Earth, Wind and Fire, during the game's halftime on Feb. 16. Kendrick Lamar will take the mic ahead of the dunk contest Feb. 15, and Pharrell Williams and another guest will provide background music during player intros Feb. 16. We'll take tickets to all of it.

Before that it was probably the T-Rex. But I think after ['Jurassic Park'], I become a velociraptor fan. They're like the wolves of dinosaurs, they hunt in packs. They're really badass."

—"Jurassic World" star **Chris Pratt,** on his favorite dinosaur. We're pretty much going to feed you every single one of his quotes on the subject until the movie comes out in 2015, so just be prepared for that.



### Not a fan

Well, America, we've done it. Here's the one person in America who isn't gaga over Ryan Gosling. "I don't know what all this hoo-ha about Ryan Gosling is about," George Takei told the Huffington Post. "He's more often boring than not." Takei goes on to add that he's more a fan of actors like George Clooney and Matt Damon, so we can't entirely fault his taste.